

Grant A (Alistair)

From: Paula Nixon [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 September 2017 17:24
To: Local Govt Boundary Comm Scot
Subject: [REDACTED]

Mr & Mrs Nixon
[REDACTED]

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thistle House Court
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD

September 6th 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

Fifth General Review of ward boundary proposals - Request for Review and Amendment of Glasgow City Council Ward 21 (North East)

I understand that you are consulting with the public on your ward boundary proposals as part of your Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements, following a period of consultation with Glasgow City Council.

I am writing to request that a review and amendment of the aforementioned ward boundary is made, to re-assign the following affected properties to a North Lanarkshire ward e.g. Strathkelvin Ward 5, in any proposals that you make to the Scottish Ministers/Secretary of State under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (or equivalent procedure):

- The near-completed* Bellway 'The Marches' housing development, which includes addresses within Dunlop Close, Crescent, Grove, Place and Wynd and which will ultimately comprise 100 homes; and
 - The completed Miller Homes 'Rowan Grove' housing development including addresses within Dunlop Court, Gardens, Gate and Crescent which comprises 58 homes.
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It should be noted that due to local topography and existing watercourses that further residential development will not be easily made within the surroundings to the two aforementioned developments. Although it is understood that the LGBCS would normally only recommend an amendment of local authority boundaries where a development has taken place across a council boundary e.g. if

properties physically straddle a local authority boundary as was the case in the 2009 Cardowan review, it is felt by the majority local residents of the aforementioned two housing developments that there are several circumstances which make such a review and amendment necessary in this case, these include:

1. Council Services

Currently the only appreciable services provided by Glasgow City Council to the residents of the aforementioned developments are provision of street lighting and refuse collection. Other typical council services (covered in more detail below) such as education, local healthcare, amenities etc are not easily accessible and/or local to affected residents.

2. Education

2.1 Provision of primary and secondary schooling

Primary schools which are located closest to the two developments are Stepps Primary or St. Joseph's Primary which are both within easy and safe walking distance for children and their parents (1.1 miles and 0.6 miles distant respectively). This is the safest and most environmentally friendly option for families and local schools (see: Walk to School campaign by Living Streets and Healthier Scotland by Scottish Government). Both of these schools are within the North Lanarkshire Council boundary (Strathkelvin Ward 5).

The nearest school provision by Glasgow City Council is located in Easterhouse (Lochend Primary or St. Benedict's Primary). These are located 6.1 and 6.0 miles travelling distance respectively, requiring use of a private transport or the provision by the local authority of a school bus (no such service is provided at present). Public transport journey times are more than 1 hour, using at least 2 buses, and the nearest bus-stop on Cumbernauld Road is only accessible via. a 10-15 minute walk from our properties.

The nearest secondary schools to our properties are located at Chryston High, Muirhead (located 1.75 miles travelling distance) or Our Lady's High School, Cumbernauld, which is accessed via. an existing well utilised school bus service which picks-up/drops-off from Dewar Road.

Glasgow City Council nearest secondary school provision are either Lochend Community High School (6.1 miles travelling distance) or St. Andrew's Secondary School, Carntyne (4.9 miles travelling distance). Either option will require private transport or public transport, with a journey time of over 1 hour, using 2 buses.

Glasgow City Council has a statutory responsibility which now appears to align with the minimum legal requirements of section 42(4) of the 1980 Act (the provision was until recently more generous) to provide free school transport to children living more than 2 miles away for primary school and more than 3 miles away for secondary school ref: (<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8707>), although the information included within this article appears to be incomplete as to the process followed after the Free School Transport application form is completed and submitted.

2.2 Placing requests to alternative schools

LGBCS Paper 2289 states "The nearest primary and secondary schools to the development are within North Lanarkshire council area. However there is the possibility to request that children should attend a school in a different council area for those living near to a council area boundary." I believe this statement relates to a comment made in a letter from Glasgow City Council Chief Executive Anne Marie O'Donnell to LGBC on 27th May 2015 (reference AMOD/JC/ci/boundary commission), to the effect that residents of the two developments chose to buy properties located in Glasgow City Council and have the option to make placing requests to North Lanarkshire Council to access schools which are just across the Council boundary. This is

factually correct however placing requests are decided by a strict set of guidelines which differ between Councils, and which for North Lanarkshire

are: <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=5609>:

including:

“Where there are more applications than places available, preference will be given in accordance with the following priority order:

- (a) in the case of a primary school, applications from children living in the delineated area but who could not be accommodated to date
- (b) in the case of secondary school, applications from children living in the delineated area of an associated primary school but who could not be accommodated in the school to date
- (c) in the case of a primary school, early entry requests from children living in the delineated area and considered for primary education
- (d) applications from children with relevant medical conditions supported by the family doctor and the community medicine specialist
- (e) in the case of a primary school, early entry requests from children living outwith the delineated area and considered ready for primary education
- (f) applications affected by other factors, for example, family circumstances, presence of older siblings in the school, distance between home and school and curricular provision

Once the applications have been considered in terms of the above admission criteria and where there are still more requests than places available, these places will be allocated by ballot.”

A local resident recently submitted a Freedom of Information request to North Lanarkshire Council to determine numbers of placing requests and the outcomes of these at our nearest primary/secondary schools, namely Stepps and Chryston Primary. The response confirmed that in the last 3 years 51 placing requests have been made to Chryston Primary, with only 4 granted following appeals made by parents and in the same period 24 placing requests have been made to Stepps Primary, with only 2 granted, including 1 granted following an appeal by parents, therefore it is clear that getting access to our most local schools via placing requests is not going to be an easy option for parents of school age children within the two housing developments. It is also worth noting that the placing request process must be undertaken for every child within each family, with no guarantee that siblings who are near in age will end up in the same primary or secondary schools together.

Whilst this raises the question of whether Stepps Primary and/or Chryston Primary/High schools could accommodate the extra 158 homes from our two developments, it should be noted that in the last few years 114 homes have been built by Taylor Wimpey in the North Lanarkshire based Frankfield Loch development just off Cumbernauld Road and a further 125 homes have recently received planning permission approval, all of which will have Stepps Primary as the catchment primary school and Chryston High School as the catchment secondary school. The 79 homes which are under construction in the North Lanarkshire based latest phase of the Bellway ‘The Marches’ will have Chryston Primary as the catchment primary school and Chryston High School as the catchment secondary school. This will make placing requests to either school by non-North Lanarkshire based school children even more difficult to obtain in the short term, but medium to long term plans must be in place by North Lanarkshire to cope with the additional numbers of school age children which will likely require to be accommodated by the North Lanarkshire based Bellway and Taylor Wimpey housing.

It should be noted that there are also 5 other local primary schools which are located within North Lanarkshire (St. Barbaras, Gartcosh, Auchinloch, Glenmanor and St. Michaels primary schools), which although further away from our two developments are all are still within closer travelling distance to us than our Glasgow City Council catchment schools.

3. Transport links

There is presently only one public road which provides direct access to and from our properties, which is Dewar Road, which is partly located within the boundaries of North Lanarkshire Council boundary and

partly within the boundaries of Glasgow City Council, which has caused some issues with mix-ups in gritting responsibilities etc

This single link road means that there is no physical access possible to any other Glasgow City Council facilities or services without leaving Glasgow City Council boundary and then travelling through North Lanarkshire Council to then re-enter the Glasgow City Council boundary.

A planned access road (Ref: City Plan 1 and, City Plan 2 - Proposal T005) linking Dewar Road, South to Lochend Road, which, if constructed would seem to be the only sensible reason to include our two developments within the Glasgow City Council boundary, but with plans to construct this road on hold since 2009 it does not appear likely that this is planned in the near future. The LGBCS Paper 2289 quotes that “Recently the Glasgow City Council Development Department (GCCDD) stated that “the road proposal is not currently viable”. Indeed in the letter from Glasgow City Council Chief Executive Anne Marie O’Donnell to LGBC on 27th May 2015 (reference AMOD/JC/ci/boundary commission), I believe there was an admission made by the Chief Executive that there are no plans to construct the road and that it would only be kept under review.

Furthermore the nearest Glasgow City Council public roads which ultimately link to the aforementioned North Lanarkshire Council public road which provides sole access to our properties are located several miles East and Westwards of us.

All local bus stops/routes and train stations are located within North Lanarkshire and access to our properties if travelling by taxi is subject to addition to the fare of a boundary charge, even when travelling directly from Glasgow City Centre, as the driver must travel from Glasgow City Council through North Lanarkshire and back to Glasgow City Council to reach our properties.

4. Council amenities and facilities

4.1 Leisure centres

The tables below demonstrate that the typical local amenities and facilities which are most easily accessible and within walking distance are all based in North Lanarkshire, the most locally based identical Glasgow City Council amenities and facilities are provided for comparison.

Facility	Council Area	Distance from properties	Public transport journey time
Stepps Cultural Centre	North Lanarkshire	1.1 miles	N/A
Iain Nicolson Recreation Centre	North Lanarkshire	2.3 miles	21 mins (including 16 mins walking)
Garthamlock Community Centre	Glasgow City	3.9 miles	48 mins (including 26 min walking)

4.2 Libraries

Facility	Council Area	Distance from properties	Public transport journey time
Stepps Cultural Centre	North Lanarkshire	1.1 miles	N/A
Chryston Library	North Lanarkshire	1.8 miles	19 mins (including 16 mins walking)
Riddrie Library	Glasgow City	3.7 miles	24 mins (including 16 mins walking)

5. Healthcare

When we had our 2nd child , she was delivered at Glasgow Royal Infirmary there was issues with cross-boundary midwifery and health visiting services. I feel like I, Paula Nixon missed being able to access local health visiting clinics which were easily accessible and a walkable distance.

Local post natal services which are provided to support new mothers e.g. local breastfeeding clinic were also not be accessible to us therefore Mrs Nixon and others within our two developments missed out on the opportunity to meet many other locally based mothers at a time when you feel vulnerable being a new parent in a new area.

6. Local Community

Like many other similar families in our two developments, our young family have attended community groups, churches and amenities within the North Lanarkshire area; for example, Book-Bug and Mother and Toddler Group at Stepps Library and Learning Centre, Jumping Joeys at St. Joseph’s Church, Cardowan, and attended the recently resurrected Chryston and Muirhead Gala days over the last couple of years and have developed a bond with our fellow local residents, the vast majority of whom reside within the limits of the North Lanarkshire Council boundary.

The families in the Bellway and Miller Homes developments have bonded far more with the local communities in Cardowan, Stepps and Muirhead and the physical separation which currently exists and will exist for the foreseeable future severely limits the relationship which can be built with any local Glasgow City Council neighbours outwith the 158 households within our two developments.

7. Easily Identifiable Boundaries

Schedule 61 (1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 sets out out the rules to be observed in considering electoral arrangements and notes that (a) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable and (b) any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary. Geographically it makes total sense to align the Southern extent of our developments in a similar fashion to that of the Honeywell estate and feel that the reverse of is true of (b) above in that in our case re-fixing the particular boundary would actually strengthen existing local ties.

If you wish to contact us in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to do so using the contact details contained within this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Mr & Mrs Nixon

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